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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-29, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Staples et al, US Patent 5,764,638 in view of Szlam, US Patent 6,359,892. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 is amended to specify a memory in a PBX that contains a calling plan module that is a facsimile of a calling plan module contained in another PBX.

The notion of a "calling plan" was present in rejected claim 4 and, therefore, it is appropriate to address the Examiner's comments in rejecting claim 4 in connection with amended claim 1.

In connection with claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Staples et al teach two PBXs that are interconnected via a network where one of the PBXs contains a directive that each call destined to a specified line A of a first PBX be forwarded through the network to a specified line B of the second PBX, and to forward the caller ID to line B. In the present Office Action the Examiner admits that Staples et al do not teach the PBXs having digital ports, but asserts that the Szlam reference teaches PBXs with digital ports, and that it would have been obvious to incorporate the teachings of Szlam into the Staples et al arrangement.

In connection with claim 4, the Examiner asserts that:

Staples shows offering of calling plan to remote user (col. 2, lines 50-63, col. 5, line 66 – col. 6 line 7). Szlam discloses that remote users are provided equipment functionality similar or identical to that available from another PVX cite [sic] (col. 19, lines 45-48).

Applicant respectfully traverses because the cited passages in the Staples et al reference state:

The present invention enables the concept of virtual presence or "telepresence", whereby a user at a remote location has the full capabilities and user interfaces of the corporate office just as if the user were physically located at the corporate office. Thus the telephone of the remote user mirrors the telephone the user sees at the corporate office, including substantially the same button configurations at substantially the same locations and performing substantially the same functions. According to the present invention, the remote user dials the local extension number or DID (direct inward dialing) number of co-workers in the corporate office, and can be reached with a local extension number, just as if the remote user were physically located in the corporate office,

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and

Thus the telecommuter or road warrior using a virtual telephone on his/her computer "sees" a virtual telephone that optionally substantially mirrors the telephone the user sees at the corporate office, including substantially the same button configurations at substantially the same locations and performing substantially the same functions. In one embodiment, the user configures the virtual telephone to provide different and/or more advanced features than the telephone at the corporate office

and the cited passage in the Szlam reference states:

Thus, the Atlanta user is not required to be connected with the Atlanta office location in order to use equipment functionally similar or identical to that available at the Tokyo office location.

Of these three passages, the first two passages teach, in general terms, the capabilities that the Staples et al systems have. They do not, however, teach how those capabilities are achieved. The third passage simply adds that similar equipment can be used in both the local (corporate) and the remote (branch) offices. That, *per se*, does not say anything about what capabilities are imparted and, much more importantly, not how they are achieved.

It is believed not enough for the Examiner to find references that achieve substantially the same or similar results. The results much be achieved in either the same structure (or one that is so similar as to be obvious).

It is respectfully submitted that the structure of claim 1 is quite different. Claim 1 specifies a memory in the first PBX that contains a calling plan module, and a directive that specifies a line B in said second PBX that is to be used instead of line A. It also specifies a memory in the second PBX which contains a directive that line B is to be treated as if it is line A, and a module associated with line B that contains a facsimile of said calling plan module contained in said first memory. The structure of the references, taken singly or combined, does not suggest the mimicking of a calling plan of the home office in the visited office. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of Staples et al and Szalm combination of references.

Moreover, amended claim 1 specifies a security processor interposed between the digital port of each of the PBXs and a digital network. Neither the Staples et al reference nor the Szlam reference describes or suggests such a processor. Therefore, it is again

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respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is not obvious in view of Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

Amended claim 4 specifies that the security processors perform decryption. This claim is believed clearly not obvious, since the combination of Staples et al and Szlam does not even have security processors as defined in claim 1, on which claim 4 depends, and there is certainly no suggestion of a need for security generally or use of encryption in particular.

Amended claim 5 depends on claim 4 and further specifies that the second processor includes a module that

translates signal activation by a telephonic instrument connected to line B to develop control signals for said second PBX that implement said telecommunication capabilities of said line A, as specified in said second memory

The Examiner asserts that Staples et al show remote user logging in and setting up remote user information. However, that does not actually describe the notion of having the calling plan of line A in a first PBX being installed in a second PBX, and it certainly does not describe the notion of implemented the calling plan of said line A. The Examiner also states that Szlam teaches retrofitting PBXs with a CTI (digital) port so that the remote users may be provided with virtual presence to received caller ID, make credit card calls, and facsimile service. However, the programming that is described to be possible in the Szlam reference is not actually described in terms of a porting of a calling plan. In fact, the notion of programming the second PBX points in a direction away from the arrangement claimed by application, that being the simple process of simply installing the calling plan of line A of the first PBX into a second PBX, in association with line B.

It is noted that installing the calling plan is all-inclusive, in contrast to programming the various capabilities. Thus, for example, installing the calling plan in the second PBX still allows callers to be connected to a messaging platform when a ringing-no-answer condition occurs, receive the normal greeting of line A, and store message for line A. None of the references suggested that their arrangements can do this.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 is not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

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Amended claim 6 also depends on claim 4 and it specifies that the first security processors performs authentication and format conversion. Neither of these capabilities are described in the references, which is not surprising since neither of them has a security processor in the first place. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 6 is not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

Amended claim 7 defines a go-between processor that is interposed in the signals flow of the first and second security processors. Claim 15 in the previous applicant's amendment specified a go-between processor, and the Examiner rejected claim 15 as part of a rejection of claims 1-16. However, in his remarks the Examiner merely admitted that Staples et al do not show using a gateway, and asserted that "Szlam further discloses that gateways routers, etc., may also use CTI protocol to provide a seamless virtual presence (col. 27, lines 1-39)." Applicant respectfully disagrees. While Szlam does generally state that its controller 225 can be replaced by a group of devices "such as the PBX/ACD, routers, gateways, interactive voice response systems, servers, hosts, etc., couple perform theses functions" it is noted that (1) it does not teach any particular arrangement, (2) it is limited to apparatus for effecting the functions described by Szlam, *which does not describe the encryption and format translation* that amended claim 7 specifies, and (3) it does not describe the specific connection arrangement of amended claim 7 where a PBX's CTI port is connected and sends a signal to a first security processor, the first security processor is connected and sends a signal to a digital network, the go-between processor which is coupled to the digital network received the signal sent by the first security processor and sends a signal to a second security processor, the second security processor is connected to the digital network receives the signal from the go-between processor and send it to the CTI port of a second PBX. In applicant's view, the notion of placing a computer in the midst of a digital network, to operate as a go-between processor, is certainly not something that suggests itself from a comment that gateways routers etc. can be used to provide seamless virtual presence. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

Regarding claim 8, it is true that the Szlam reference asserts that the Szlam system provides a remote user with "services such as caller ID." Applicant respectfully

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notes, however, that such service provides the remote use with the caller ID of incoming calls. In contradistinction, claim 8 addresses a caller ID service of parties who receive calls from the remote user; i.e., outgoing calls. The notion that such a party would received calls from a remote user and obtain the caller ID information of the remote user's home office number is not discussed in the references, and a specific embodiment for effecting such capability as defined in claim 8 is also not described. Therefore, claim 8 is not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

Amended claim 24 is a method claim. *Inter alia*, it specifies the process of receiving a request to output the calling plan of a given line A of the PBX, and the installing of that calling plan in another PBX. No such process is described or suggested by either Staples et al or by Szlam and, therefore, it is believed that their combination does not make claim 24 obvious.

Claim 25 specifies that the request is encrypted. Since there is no mention of encryption is present in either of the references, it is believed that claim 25 is clearly not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

Claims 26, 27, and 29 depend on claim 24 and, at least for this reason, are believed no obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references. It is noted especially that neither of the references addresses the issue of messaging platforms.

Regarding claim 32, the Examiner admits that Staples et al "fail to show determining foreign calling plan," but asserts that Szlam teach remote access, emulation and control of office equipment, retrofitting PBXs with a CTI port so that uses can be provided with seamless virtual presence, making credit card calls, and facsimile services. All this is accomplished through the remote programming of the PBXs, creating internally stored application programs to be executed when commanded to do so. Assuming all this to be correct, in applicant's view it still does not describe or suggest applicant's solution for achieving essentially the same goal – that being the use of a foreign calling plan. The use of a foreign calling plan may be accomplished by simply porting the foreign calling plan to the PBX, which obviates the need to program various capabilities into the PBX, remotely or otherwise. Indeed, the teaching of remote programming through the CTI – as indicated above – suggests the opposite of porting a

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foreign calling plan. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 32 is not obvious in view of Staples et al taken with Szlam.

Nevertheless, to make claim 32 clearer that the foreign calling plan is the calling plan found in the first PBX – that being the user's home PBX – claim 32 is amended to explicitly define the foreign calling plain as the “calling plan for line A [at a first PBX PBX], previously obtained from said first PBX and installed in said second PBX to be associated with said line B.” It is believed that claim 32, as amended, is even more clearly not obvious in view of the Staples et al and Szlam combination of references.

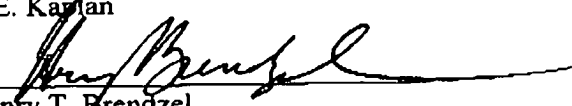
Claims 33 and 34 depend on claim 32.

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In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully,
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